

Frequently Asked Questions for Harvard Acres Residents

September 2010

How do I start the process of digging a well?

Call the Stow Board of Health and make an appointment: **978-897-4592** or **978-897-7631**.

Representatives will walk you through the process, make sure you have all of the paperwork that you need, provide septic plans and lot lines for your lot as well as for your neighbors, and answer your questions. The Board of Health is looking at alternative hours on Saturday and week nights to accommodate all residents. You can also find forms and additional resources on the Board of Health [web page for Harvard Acres](#) residents.

How much will drilling a well cost?

The estimated total cost is expected to be in the range of \$8,000-\$10,000. The exact cost will be based on your specific lot and requirements and on negotiations you may have with the well driller.

Do I have to use one of the drillers on your list?

We have a [list of drillers](#) whom we have contacted; however, you are free to use any certified driller.

Do I need a permit?

Yes, you will need a permit from the Stow Board of Health. You can get the permit application from the Board of Health office on the second floor of the Town Building or on the [web page for Harvard Acres](#) residents. The permit fee is \$90.00, payable at the time the application is submitted.

Why do I need plot plans for my neighbors?

The public record plans that the Board of Health will provide to you are critical for placing your well in a good location that meets required setbacks. The Board of Health and your well digger will work with you to determine where to place your well.

What setbacks are required?

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulations require 100 feet from the well to the septic leaching field and 50 feet from the well to the septic tank. Well setbacks to property lines are 25 feet.

What if my well has to be located less than 100 feet from a septic leaching field?

The Board of Health will consider variances to the required distances on smaller lots or lots that have restrictions not allowing the setbacks in the regulations.

I have a small lot – can I fit in a well that will give me and my neighbors potable water?

The Board of Health is confident that every lot will support a well with maximum feasible compliance. Every well must be tested for water quality. The well driller will send a sample of

your water to a [state approved lab](#). The Board of Health will review the water analysis, determine the potability of the water, and issue a certificate of compliance.

How long will it take for everyone in Harvard Acres to get a well?

We have been working with homeowners to transition everyone to a well as quickly as possible. We estimate that all homeowners will transition within the next six months.

Will anyone come out to see my property to make sure my well location will work?

As part of the permitting process, someone from the Board of Health will come on site to review the well location.

What if I can't afford a well right now?

You can negotiate with the well drillers on their costs, particularly if they are servicing multiple homes. The state is also looking into legislature to enact a loan program for those who may be eligible for hardship assistance.

Where do I go if I have questions?

Contact the Board of Health at **978-897-4592** or **978-897-7631**.